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auriferous lode mining. B. L. Johnson is investigating the lode and placer deposits of the northern part of the peninsula.

The Yentna placer district lies about 150 miles north of the head of Cook Inlet. A topographic base map of this region was made some years ago, and a study of its geology and mineral resources is now being conducted by S. R. Capps.

A. H. Brooks, the geologist in charge of the Alaska surveys and investigations, will sail from Seattle for Prince William Sound on August 15. He will visit the lower Copper River region and the Valdez Inlet mining district and will spend some time on Kenai Peninsula.

THE BRITISH CENSUS

THE preliminary report of the census of England and Wales has been promptly made public. According to an abstract in the *British Medical Journal* the enumerated population of the United Kingdom on April 2, 1911, was 45,216,665, distributed as follows: England, 34,043,076; Wales, 2,032,193; Scotland, 4,759,445; Ireland, 4,381,951. It thus appears that England contains over 75 per cent. of the population of the United Kingdom, Scotland rather more and Ireland rather less than 10 per cent., while Wales contains the remaining 4½ per cent. The absolute diminution in the population of Ireland, noted in previous intercensal periods, has continued in the last, but the proportional decrease (1.7 per cent.) is less than any recorded since 1851.

In England and Wales the population has increased from 32,527,843 to 36,075,269, a percentage increase of 10.9. This is the lowest rate of increase on record, the rates for the two previous decennia being 11.65 and 12.17 respectively. The rate of increase of population depends upon two factors: (1) the balance between births and deaths; and (2) the balance between outward and inward passenger movement. The net gain by excess of births over deaths was slightly higher than in the previous decennium (12.44 as against 12.39 per cent.), a result due to the counterbalancing of a large reduction on the birth-rate by a still larger reduction of the death rate. The loss by balance of passenger movement was nearly half a million persons as compared with about 68,000 in 1891–1901, and over 600,000 in 1881–91.

With regard to the counties in which there has been a considerable rise or fall in the population it appears that some of the highest increases occurred in counties immediately surrounding the metropolis; Kent, however, showed an increase of only 8.8 per cent. The distribution of population in urban and rural districts, respectively, and their relative changes in the last intercensal period are as follows: In 1901, the urban population of England and Wales was 77 per cent. of the total and the rural population 23 per cent. For 1911, the figures are 78.1 and 21.9. The rate of increase in rural districts has risen from 2.9 to 10.2 per cent., and the rate in urban districts has fallen from 15.2 to 11.1 per cent. It should, however, be noted that the rates represent an actual increase of 2,818,072 persons in the urban and of 729,354 in the rural districts.

There has been a great increase in the populations of some of the suburban towns and districts which, conveniently designated the "Outer Ring," make up Greater London. The following have increased their population more than 70 per cent. in the last ten years: Southgate (124.2), Southall Norwood (99.4), Ilford (89.6), Ealing (85.4), Finchley (78.2), Surrey Rural Parishes (75.1), Hendon (72.9) and Barnes (70.5).

The proportion of females to males (1,068 to 1,000) was the same as at the previous census, but when due allowance is made for the number of males absent on military service in South Africa in 1901, it is probable that the true proportion of females to males was somewhat lower in 1901 than in 1911. The sex distribution varies considerably in different parts of the country, the proportion of females being lowest in Monmouthshire (912 to 1,000) and the highest in Sussex (1,218 to 1,000).

Three metropolitan boroughs show a percentage increase in population of more than

10, namely, Wandsworth (+ 34.3), Lewisham (+ 26.2) and Fulham (+ 11.7). On the other hand, six show a decrease of more than 10 per cent., namely, City of London (— 27.0), Holborn (— 16.9), Finsbury (— 13.3), City of Westminster (—12.4), St. Marylebone (—11.3) and Chelsea (— 10.1). Only one constituent of London's "Outer Ring" actually decreased in population, namely, the urban district of Penge (— 0.6). The population in the rural part of the "Outer Ring" increased by 54,799, no less than 14,591 of this change being credited to the rural parish of Mitcham.

CHARLES OTIS WHITMAN[1]

THE corporation and trustees of the Marine Biological Laboratory record their great sorrow and loss in the death, on December 8th last, of Professor Charles Otis Whitman, for twenty-one years director of the Marine Biological Laboratory and virtually its creator. His connection with the laboratory began at the time when it was first located at Woods Hole and before it had achieved recognized standing; with untiring energy and enthusiasm he strove to make it a national center for research in every department of biology.

"The great charm of a biological station," he wrote, "must be the fullness with which it represents the biological system. Its power and efficiency diminish with every source of light excluded." To zoology, which was the only subject represented at first, he added botany and physiology, and, so far as he was able, made provision for all the newer fields and methods of biological investigation. But his breadth of sympathy was associated with exacting thoroughness. By his own careful and critical work, as well as by his appreciation of the fundamental problems of biology, he set a high standard for the scientific work of the laboratory.

If the laboratory was to be truly national, Professor Whitman believed that it must be founded upon the cooperation of individuals and institutions. He recognized the fact that common ideals must form the basis of such cooperation, and he sought to bring into close connection with the laboratory every person and institution that shared these ideals with himself. By his kindness, sincerity, generosity, and devotion to the laboratory, he called forth similar qualities in others, so that it has been peculiarly characteristic of Woods Hole that a spirit of mutual cooperation and service prevails.

Finally, Professor Whitman stood for the complete autonomy of the laboratory. Although much needed aid might have been had more than once from universities and institutions by surrendering the independence of the laboratory, he steadfastly and consistently refused to do this, maintaining that the laboratory must be left free to grow and develop as its own needs and the interests of science demand, and that its government must remain in the hands of those most interested in it. Though there was formerly much difference of opinion as to the expediency of this stand, we are now all agreed as to Professor Whitman's foresight and wisdom in this matter.

Catholicity, cooperation, independence—these are the ideals which Professor Whitman succeeded in making part and parcel of the Marine Biological Laboratory and which we count among our most cherished possessions.

Professor Whitman was the founder and for many years the editor of the *Journal of Morphology;* he founded the *Biological Bulletin* and the annual volume of *Lectures* from the Marine Biological Laboratory. He was at one time director of the Lake Laboratory, one of the first research institutions in this country. He rendered eminent service in universities of this and other lands. He contributed to the advance of science by research work of fundamental importance. Biology owes much to his high ideals, his generous enthusiasm, his rigorous criticism, but most of all to the enterprise which always lay nearest his heart —the Marine Biological Laboratory. Here, if it had been possible, he would gladly have spent his life; to this place his thoughts returned with longing after every absence; to this place friends bore his body and laid it to

[1] Resolution prepared by Professor Edwin G. Conklin, and adopted by the corporation of the Marine Biological Laboratory on August 8, 1911.